REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION II

EPA ID: NJD001890185 **Site Name:** TENNECO POLYMERS, INC **State ID:**

Alias Site Names: TENNECO CHEMICALS, INC

City: BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP **County or Parish:** BURLINGTON **State:** NJ

Refer to Report Dated: **Report Type:** Site Inspection Prioritization 001

Report Developed by: START

DECISION:

- ☐ **1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:**
  - ☐ **1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA (No Further Remedial Action Planned - NFRAP)**
  - ☐ **1b. Site may qualify for action, but is deferred to:**
- ☒ **2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:**
  - **2a. Priority:** ☐ **Higher** ☒ **Lower**
  - **2b. Other: (recommended action)** Low

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

The Tenneco Polymers, Inc. site is a 140-acre active PVC manufacturing facility located in Burlington County, New Jersey. The plant was originally constructed by Cary Chemical in 1962 for the manufacturing of PVC homopolymers and copolymers. The site was purchased by Tenneco in 1966. Tenneco expanded the site and it was sold to OxyChem in 1986. A portion of the property was sold to Franklin-Burlington Plastics, Inc. in 1988. The Franklin-Burlington Plastics property was sold to Rimtec Corporation in 1990. Colorite Polymers purchased the remaining property from OxyChem in 1995. Both the Tenneco sale to OxyChem and the OxyChem sale to Franklin-Burlington Plastics prompted remediation agreements for the site with the NJDEP under the ECRA/ISRA program.

GW: An attributable release of TCE to groundwater is suspected. The presence of a plume has been documented, but the QA/QC documentation is incomplete. TCE is attributable to site operations while under Tenneco ownership. TCE has not been used onsite since the purchase of the site by OxyChem in 1986. Soil samples from the former TCE Handling and Storage Area confirm the presence of TCE. The site is underlain by the unconfined aquifer of the Cape May Formation and the semi-confined Raritan-Magothy aquifer, which are hydraulically connected. The Raritan-Magothy aquifer is a major source of water in the Burlington area and provides water for industrial purposes at the site. The water table aquifer is not used for drinking water onsite. The nearest drinking water well is located 0.42 miles southwest of the site. Groundwater movement is toward the production wells onsite. Prior to development, groundwater flow direction in the water table aquifer was probably northwest toward the Delaware River, and in the Raritan-Magothy, toward the southeast. The number of people who obtain drinking water from wells that are actually contaminated or suspected of being contaminated are unknown, however, the TCE plume is believed to be static and not migrating offsite due to continuous pumping of onsite production wells. Approximately 186,000 people receive their drinking water from wells within four miles of the site. The groundwater from the NJ-American Water Company public supply wells is blended with surface water before distribution. 13 wells are used for irrigation within four miles of the site.

SW: A release to surface water has not been observed. Several small runoff channels run eastward across the site into Marter's Ditch. Marter's Ditch is an intermittent tributary of the Delaware River and flows parallel to the eastern property boundary. No downgradient surface water samples have been collected. The nearest downslope surface water boundary is the Delaware River which forms the northern boundary of the site. Portions of the site lie in the 100-yr, 100-500 yr, and 500-yr floodplains. The Philadelphia Water Department operates a drinking water intake 6.5 miles downstream of the site. This intake serves approximately 900,000 people. The NJ-American Water Company operates two intakes approximately 6.75 miles downstream of the site serving approximately 240,000 people. 17 state-listed endangered species can be found with 15 miles of the site, as well as 1 federally-listed threatened species, 1 federally-listed endangered species, and 2 unique biotic communities. The Delaware is used for non-contact recreational boating 3-miles downstream of the site.

SOIL: Soil sampling has indicated soil contamination by VOCs, mainly TCE. All areas of contamination have been remediated or were found to be below NJ cleanup standards and assigned no further action by the state. Approximately 57 people reside immediately adjacent to the site but are not believed to be within 200 feet of suspected contamination. A total of 242 people work on or within 200 feet of the site. There are no terrestrial sensitive environments on or within 200 feet of suspected contamination.

AIR: A release to air has been neither observed nor suspected. Any releases while under OxyChem's ownership involved direct releases of vinyl chloride from valves or pump seals. Vinyl chloride readily volatizes to the atmosphere and no air sampling data is available. Approximately 120,000 people live within four miles of the site. Approximately 1480 acres of wetlands are located within 4 miles of the site. 13 state-listed endangered species, 2 state-listed threatened species, 1 federally-listed threatened species, and 1 federally-listed endangered species exist within 4 miles of the site.

Site Decision Made by: KRISTIN DOBINSON

Signature: Kristin Dobinson **Date:** 05/30/2000

EPA Form # 9100-3

277585